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NPIC/TDS-170/67  
2 October 1967

DDR-Dupe

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Photographic Interpretation Center

THROUGH: Chief, Support Staff, NPIC

SUBJECT: FY-1968 R&D Project #02278 for an "Advanced 940 Light Table Prototype"

1. NPIC's FY-1968 R&D Program contains a project for the development of the Advanced 940 Light Table. The concept is to produce an optimized 9" x 40" light table incorporating in one unit the best features exhibited by two prototype light tables produced under previous (FY-65) contracts. This prototype would then serve as the model for manufacturing production quantities of this table. Funding amounting to [ ] will be necessary for a contract to develop this prototype. 25X1

2. The Technical Development Staff has performed a rather extensive analysis of this project in terms of technical feasibility and operational desirability and we have come to the conclusion that there is an alternative approach to this development that will result in (1) superior equipment, (2) greater efficiency, and (3) considerable cost savings to the Government.

3. The proposed approach is to essentially build the prototype "in-house" in the following manner:

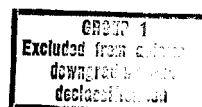
a. Start with a basic light table -- such as a [ ] 940 MCE. 25X1

b. Procure superior component parts; e.g., [ ] sources and [ ] film holders, [ ] focusing mechanisms, etc. A few of these items can be salvaged from our present prototypes, others will need to be purchased. 25X1 25X1

c. Retrofit these items in-house using various personnel currently available within the Technical Development Staff.

d. Operationally test and obtain acceptance from in-house operational personnel for each improvement as we proceed sequentially.

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e. When it is ascertained that we have an acceptable, superior table, engineering drawings and specifications will be drawn up in-house and distributed to industry for competitive bids.

4. We estimate that by using this approach the desired prototype table can be obtained for about [ ] Thereby, realizing a cost savings of [ ] if we were to continue with the original plan.

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25X1

5. In order to implement this approach we would require approval to redistribute [ ] of the original funds in the following manner:

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a. [ ] for purchase of component parts and subassemblies. (Transfer from R&D to Supplies)

25X1

b. [ ] for technical services; i.e., machine shop work, electronic support, etc. (Transfer to Miscellaneous)

25X1

c. [ ] for two or more very small R&D contracts for possible minor sub-systems; e.g., film drives, etc. (Transfer to Miscellaneous Service Contracts with [ ])

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6. We feel strongly that this approach is in the best interest of NPIC; it will be cheaper and should result in a better product with greater acceptance from the operational components. A more detailed description of the overall problem and the rationale leading to our conclusions and recommendations is attached for your information.

25X1

Colonel, USAF

Assistant for Technical Development, NPIC

Attachments: a/s

APPROVED: [ ]

ARTHUR C. LUNDAHL  
Director

National Photographic Interpretation Center

23 OCT 1967

Date

25X1

Distribution:

- Original & 1 - NPIC/SS/LB (after approval)
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